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22 May 1964

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Communication [redacted]

1. All of the information contained in the letter, including the photographed map, has already been received by this agency from other sources, and was in fact dealt with at length in a memorandum for the White House on 6 April analyzing an almost identical letter from [redacted] to President Johnson. [redacted]

2. Detailed evaluation is attached. Briefly, we have no verifiable evidence from any source to support the allegation that there are still more than 15,000 Soviet-blec soldiers and technicians in Cuba, or that the Soviets have been "rotating" their troops away from towns to secluded bases. On the basis of all available evidence to date, there are now 4,000 to 7,000 Soviet military personnel in Cuba--probably closer to the upper end of that range if we have to pick a single figure. Intelligence has never identified any weapon called the GOLEM or by any other name with the characteristics given, outside science fiction and popular speculation. There is no evidence of submarine pens at Matanzas Bay, which is not deep enough to permit a submarine to approach the shore submerged. We have identified the supposed strategic missile silos on Nareca Farm as a launch site for 35-mile coastal defense cruise missiles.

3. We are, of course, happy to have our attention called to such reports, because we make it a point to check out every report or even rumor of offensive weapons in Cuba against every intelligence source available to us, including the sustained and intensive interpretation of constant photographic reconnaissance. We continue to receive a flood of such reports from exile groups, from new refugees, and [redacted]

[redacted] Many of them can be attributed to the presence of defensive and tactical missiles and launchers in Cuba. There is always a ~~sharp~~ new surge of these reports whenever there is any missile movement in Cuba, for example, when the SAM sites were redeployed to new ~~xxx~~ patterns last winter, and again [redacted] when three SAM sites trucked in spare missiles, probably because they were isolated from the nearest SAM support areas, and seven other sites turned up with spare launchers in addition to the six normally found at each site.

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4. From time to time, there are a few of these reports referring to strategic weapons which cannot be resolved short of on-site inspection. These are exhaustively analyzed by the entire intelligence community and kept under review. In no case, however, have we found enough validity or substantiation to warrant the conclusion that there is a strategic missile capability against the United States in Cuba.

5. To a degree, then, these reports can be attributed to untrained observers mistaking smaller weapons for strategic systems, or forwarding for our evaluation information which they have heard and are not qualified or able to check out.

25X1 6. Unfortunately, however, we are also aware that some of these reports are fabricated by exiles determined to raise the level of U. S. animosity toward Castro Cuba. Thus the [] report has successively been sent to The President, General Taylor, and Senator Keating in the hope of obtaining authoritative sponsorship for making it public, and parts of it now are being fed to the press by exile circles, particularly the highly printable GOLEM II. Similarly this spring The statement by Tony Varena of the Cuban Revolutionary Council was sent []
25X1 [] and then released to the press in Miami.

7. It is to be feared that this purposeful fabrication and the attempt to find authoritative outlets will continue as long as Cuba is a closed society making it impossible to prove the inaccuracy of the statements conclusively.

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